

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE KENORA MAP SHEET AREA, 52E

The Manitoba part of the Kenora map sheet is located in the southeastern corner of the province and comprises part of the Manitoba Lowland between the Red River and Lake of the Woods. The three main physiographic features of the area are the water- and wind-modified glacial drift plateau in the southwest corner known as the Bedford Hills - Whitemouth Lake Plateau the Precambrian Shield in the northeast, and the huge swampy region located between the Bedford Hills and the Precambrian Shield. Elevations in the area vary from 1300 feet above sea level in the Bedford Hills to 900 feet above sea level, where the Whitemouth River flows out of the area in the northwest.

The most notable topographical feature in southeastern Manitoba is a roughly semicircular upland region called the Bedford Hills - Whitemouth Lake Plateau. This upland region, which is surrounded in part by the Campbell strandlines, is a sandy, wind- and water-modified moraine with a local relief of 250 feet. The region surrounding these uplands is a peat-covered, swampy expanse broken occasionally by small islands of stony, water-worked till and by numerous wave-built sand and gravel bars and beaches, which are remnants of the shorelines of glacial Lake Agassiz. In contrast to the numerous lakes in the Precambrian Shield to the northeast, the plateau region has only a few shallow lakes, which average 10 feet in depth. Whitemouth, Moose, Sprague, and Birch lakes are remnants of glacial Lake Agassiz, and are held in place by beach and outwash deposits, through which outlet streams have cut narrow channels.

The natural vegetation, which consists mainly of black spruce and aspen, is characteristic of the Northern Coniferous Section of the Boreal Forest, located north of the area. The presence in this area of red pine, white cedar, black ash, and rare occurrences of large-toothed aspen and white pine indicates a strong affinity with the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Forest Region of eastern Canada. Local relief and poor drainage have favored the development of extensive swamps that support black spruce, tamarack, eastern cedar, willow, and alder scrub. White elm, basswood, Manitoba maple, and bur oak grow along river banks. Wild rice grows in dense stands in the shallow waters of lakes, marshes, and sluggish streams in the Precambrian Shield region.

The area is drained mainly by the Winnipeg, Red, and Brokenhead rivers and their tributaries. Some of the more notable tributaries are the Whitemouth, Birch, Boggy, Powawassan, Rennie, Whiteshell, Reed, Sprague and Rat rivers and the St. Lare, Harrison, Poplar, Stony, and Pine creeks.

CLIMATE

The area is part of the large continental climatic zone, which is characterized by great ranges in annual temperatures. The mean temperatures for January is 0°F or below zero, and the mean temperatures for July is above 60°F. The average annual precipitation varies from 20 to 22 inches, 30 percent of which falls as snow from November to March, resulting in an average annual snowfall of 63 inches. Rainfall fluctuates from year to year and generally increases from southwest to northeast.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

The lakes and rivers of the area provide excellent sport fishing opportunities for both cold and warm water species. The lakes along the Whiteshell River, such as West Hawk, Caddy, South Cross, Sailing, Falcon, and High lakes, have the greatest fishing potential in the area. The Provincial Trout Hatchery at Caddy Lake carries out a program of stocking lakes and streams in the area to ensure trophy size lake, spale, rainbow, kokanee, and speckled trout. The more important warm water species are walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass, which are found in such lakes as Falcon, Caddy, and Brereton lakes, and Lake of the Woods.

Moose and white-tailed deer are found on sandy ridges and in the Precambrian Shield region. The peat bogs lack much of the food and cover necessary to support ungulates. Beaver, black bear, timber wolves, and red fox are also common inhabitants.

The Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary located at Rennie provides a site for nesting and staging Canada Geese in the area. The sanctuary was initiated in 1939 by its namesake as a pond for young Canada Geese. The Rennie River was dammed in 1940 to provide a pond for the geese. This pond is now a migration and nesting site for Canada Geese that are offspring of this original brood and others. Waterfowl can also be found nesting on many of the lakes in the area and, during fall migrations, on those watercourses where wild rice grows.

SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE

In 1668 the Dawson Trail was partially opened to connect Lake of the Woods to Ste-Anne and Winnipeg. Pierre La Verendrye established Fort St. Charles at the Northwest Angle on Lake of the Woods in 1732. In 1733, he travelled west to the Red River via the Reed, Mud, and Roseau rivers. Several gold mines were in operation around the turn of the nineteenth century, and mining activities helped to open up the Whiteshell Provincial Forest. In 1914, the Greater Winnipeg Water Works District Railway was completed through to Shoal Lake. In the early 1900s, homesteading immigrants occupied much of the sandy lands best suited to growing jack pine. By the end of the Depression, much of the land had been returned to the Crown through nonpayment of taxes.

Today, cultivated land composes 7 percent of the total area and is used mainly for the production of forage crops, oats, improved pasture, and smaller acreages of flax and wheat. About 60 percent of the land is used primarily for forest industries.

RECREATION CAPABILITY

High capability intensive recreational developments are limited to the Precambrian Shield region of the area. The Whiteshell Forest Reserve and Provincial Park include intensively developed lakes, such as Falcon, West Hawk, Caddy, Brereton, and Redrock lakes. In addition to cottaging, these lakes are also popular for camping, angling, and boating. Nora, Marion, Hello, Indian, Cabin, Sailing and Mallard lakes also have similar capabilities, but at present they are undeveloped. The west end of Falcon Lake is the most intensively developed part of the Provincial Park and has a townsite, public beach, tennis courts, golf course, and government campsite. Provincial campsites and beaches are also located at West Hawk, Caddy, Star, and Brereton lakes. Moderately high capability cottaging sites are situated on gently sloping bedrock and till regions, whereas lower capability cottaging sites are found on steeper bedrock.

Many of the lakes and streams of the area offer canoeing capability. Historically, the Whiteshell River system was used during the fur trade era as a bypass of the Winnipeg River. The Falcon, Whitemouth, and Whiteshell rivers are also navigable by canoe.

Whitemouth, Sprague, Birch, Moose, Moss lakes, and Lake of the Woods are ringed by low ridges of gravel and clay, which also form the lake basins. These lakes are characterized by turbidity, shallowness, warm water, and emergent and submergent vegetation, which create a boating problem and a low fish capability. The rivers and streams of the plateau, which flow through vast expanses of marshlands and occasional stretches of sand bands, provide limited recreational uses.

Moderate capability opportunities for interpreting the geology, flora, and fauna, in conjunction with the viewing and hiking, are also provided in the Precambrian Shield region. Points of interest are the rock cliffs of the Archean era, and the Lily Pond and McGillivray Falls just west of Caddy Lake.

Capability classification and narrative description by W. Bond, Canada Land Inventory Project, Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

ONTARIO

The Ontario part of the Kenora map sheet is located in the northwestern part of the province, and comprises about 45 percent of the total area. It is bounded by the International Boundary on the south, the Ontario - Manitoba border on the west, the fiftieth parallel of latitude on the north, and the ninety-fourth meridian of longitude on the east.

Generally, the Ontario part of the area is dominated by the Precambrian Shield, and the physiography is characterized by a moderately rolling bedrock plain that is covered by shallow, sandy soils, interspersed with localized pockets of deep sand, silt, and clay. The southern sector is composed of flat marshlands, which are associated with the postglacial lacustrine deposits of Lake Agassiz.

The area has a very extensive shoreline, mainly around Lake of the Woods and the numerous smaller lakes of the Precambrian Shield. Lake of the Woods, which is a very large water body containing many islands, protected waters, and channels, provides excellent opportunities for family boating and canoeing. There are, however, locations on the lake severely limited by exposure and shoals.

The Ontario part of the area is located within a transitional zone of vegetation between the southern hardwoods and the northern conifers. In the southern sector, especially on the islands with the deep, well-drained soils, poplar, white birch, aspen, basswood, and ash are found, whereas jack pine, white and black spruce, birch, and tamarack are the dominant species in the northern sector. There are some stands of red and white pine, and more frequent stands of jack pine. Black spruce is found in both sectors on poorly drained soils.

CLIMATE

A continental climate prevails throughout most of the area. Some local variations are caused by the moderating effect of Lake of the Woods. The annual temperature range can be extreme from a low of -47°F in January to a high of 105°F in July. The mean temperatures for January and July are 1°F and 67°F respectively. Annual precipitation is 24 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall, which occurs in July, is about 3 inches. The average annual snowfall is 76 inches.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

The area is located in one of the best upland game and sport fish zones in Ontario. The main sport fish are muskellunge, lake trout, smallmouth bass, whitefish, walleye, and northern pike. Upland game is plentiful in much of the area. Wetland wildlife can be found in and near many lakes, where they feed on the aquatic vegetation. There are few large marshes in the area, and as a result, the area can support only a limited number of migratory birds.

SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE

The original inhabitants of the area were the Sioux and Ojibwa Indians. The first white man to visit the area was a French 'coureur de bois', Jacques de Noyan. Development did not begin until La Verendrye, under commission from the Governor of New France, built a series of forts from the Lakehead to the Prairies during the period from 1730 to 1760. This resulted in a well-developed fur trade route, which competed successfully with the English Hudson's Bay northwest route. In 1821, because of competition, the French and English fur companies merged, resulting in a decline in the use of the northwest route.

For the next fifty years, the area was developed very little. Following this, because of an increased demand for lumber and forest products, a new economic base was formed around the logging industry. The industry was able to utilize the vast water systems to transport logs. The forest industries are now the main economic base of the area.

In the past, mining was very important to the local economy. Gold and silver were the main minerals found in the area. However, because of the low quality of ore and the cost of mining, most of the mines have closed down.

Agriculture is not important in the area. There is some farming on a submarginal basis on a few of the more fertile lacustrine plains. These farms produce small amounts of vegetables and grains, which are marketed mainly for local use. Many of the farms in the area have been abandoned, and the land has reverted to the natural forest cover.

The area has few industries, and those that are located in the area are based on the natural resources for the raw materials. The pulp and paper mill in Kenora is one of the largest industries in the area. The tourist industry, which also contributes to the local economy, is expanding rapidly. It will become more important as old highways are improved and new ones constructed. The pulp and paper company is also expanding and building new roads further north. As a result, new lakes are opened up to the sportsman.

RECREATION CAPABILITY

The Lake of the Woods and other water systems, the scenic qualities of the Precambrian Shield, and the historic features offer a significant recreation use base.

The Lake of the Woods provides excellent opportunities for yachting, family boating, canoeing, fishing, and other water-based activities. Many good, sand beaches are found throughout the area. Some beaches, such as those found on the islands in the southern sector, are limited by wind exposure or marshy conditions in the backshore. Generally, the backshore conditions are suitable for lodging, and Class 3 and Class 4 units are predominant. The shorelands associated with the Winnipeg River and Sturgeon Lakes have many good camping, lodging, and bathing sites, which are further enhanced because these water systems are part of an extensive canoeing and angling region.

Angling in the area is extremely varied. In the Lake of the Woods, many sport fish are found, such as walleye, muskellunge, lake trout, smallmouth bass, and northern pike. Angling in Shoal Lake is rated high, whereas in the rest of the Lake of the Woods, it is moderately high. The other lakes in the area differ a great deal in their quality and supply of fish. The predominant species are walleye, northern pike, and lake trout.

Upland game and wildlife are abundant and varied. Moose, deer, Ruffed Grouse, and bear are found throughout the area. The Three Sisters, a group of islands in the southwestern part of Lake of the Woods, is the site of the only known pelican nesting colony in Ontario (4SWAY). Bald Eagles can frequently be seen in the vicinities of the Winnipeg River and Shoal Lake. Wild rice grows in several locations around Lake of the Woods and in some other lakes in the locality. Wild rice is an important source of food for the local ducks, but because of inconsistent growth, it is not an important factor in attracting and sustaining large numbers of migrating birds. The numbers of migrating birds, the numbers and variety of wild game make hunting a very important recreational activity. The emphasis is on upland game rather than migratory birds.

Indian petroglyphs and petroglyphs are found on the cliffs along the shores of Lake of the Woods. The Indian artifacts and several historic plaques that commemorate early explorers offer unique and different recreational opportunities. The abandoned mines provide a good opportunity for gathering and collecting small amounts of gold and silver.

The area has many lakes, several navigable waterways, good angling and hunting, cultural features, and varied topography, which provides outstanding opportunities for recreation.

DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE DE KENORA - 52E

MANITOBA

La portion du territoire représenté sur la feuille de Kenora qui est située au Manitoba occupe le coin sud-est de la province et comprend une partie des basses terres du Manitoba, entre la rivière de la Paix et le lac des Bois. Sur le plan de la géographie physique, on distingue à l'intérieur du territoire trois grandes régions: dans le coin sud-ouest, un plateau de matériaux glaciaires remaniés par l'eau et le vent, connu sous le nom de plateau des collines Bedford et du lac Whitemouth; le Bouclier précamalien dans le nord-est et une vaste région marécageuse située entre les collines Bedford et le Bouclier précamalien. L'altitude varie sur ce territoire entre 1 300 pi dans les collines Bedford et 900 là où la rivière Whitemouth quitte le territoire, dans le nord-ouest.

L'élément le plus remarquable, sur le plan topographique, dans le sud-est du Manitoba est une région de hautes terres de forme à peu près semi-circulaire appelée plateau des collines Bedford et du lac Whitemouth. Cette région de hautes terres, partiellement entourée de plages, est une moraine frontale sablonneuse remaniée par l'eau et le vent, présentant une dénivellation locale de 250 pi. La région entourant ces hautes terres est marécageuse et recouverte de tourbe, des îlets de till pierreux, et un grand nombre de barres et de plages de gravier et de sable rompent parfois son uniformité. Si le Bouclier précamalien, au nord-est, renferme un nombre incalculable de lacs, la région de plateau, par contre, n'en contient que quelques-uns dont la profondeur moyenne ne dépasse guère 10 pi. Les lacs Whitemouth, Moose, Sprague et Birch sont des vestiges du lac glaciaire Agassiz et leurs eaux ne sont retenues, par endroits, que par des dépôts de plage ou d'épandage à travers les cours d'eau dont l'un taillé d'étronds chenaux.

La végétation indigène, consistant surtout en épinette noire et en tremble, est caractéristique de la section conférienne septentrionale de la forêt boréale située au nord du territoire. La présence de pin rouge, de petit cyprès, de frêne noir et de rares pins blancs et peupliers à grandes董nes indique une autre parenté avec la région de la forêt des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent du Canada oriental. Le relief régional et les mauvaises conditions de drainage ont favorisé l'apparition de vastes marécages qui croissent l'épinette noire, le mélèze laricin, le thuya de l'est, le saule et l'aulne rabougri. L'orme d'Amérique, le tilleul d'Amérique, l'érable du Manitoba et le chêne à gros fruits croissent sur les bords des rivières. La zizanie abonde dans les eaux peu profondes des lacs, des marais et des rivières boueuses de la région du Bouclier précamalien.

Les rivières Winnipeg, Rouge et Brokenhead et leurs affluents: les rivières Whitemouth, Birch, Boggy, Powawassan, Rennie, Whiteshell, Reed, Sprague et aux Rats et les ruisseaux St-Labre, Harrison, Poplar, Stony et Pine drainent le territoire.

CLIMAT

Le territoire fait partie d'une grande zone de climat continental sujette à des variations considérables de température au cours de l'année. La température moyenne en janvier est de 0°F et peut descendre sous zéro, et en juillet, elle est supérieure à 60. La précipitation annuelle moyenne varie de 20 à 22 po dont 30% tombe sous forme de neige de novembre à mars, ce qui correspond à une chute de neige annuelle de 63 po. La précipitation sous forme de pluie varie d'une année à l'autre et augmente habituellement du sud-ouest vers le nord-est.

POISSON ET GIBIER

Les lacs et rivières du territoire présentent d'excellentes possibilités d'utilisation pour la pêche sportive, qu'il s'agisse d'espèces d'eaux froides ou chaudes. Les lacs qui longent la rivière Whitemouth, entre autres, les lacs West Hawk, Caddy, South Cross, Sailing, Falcon et High offrent les possibilités les plus élevées. L'avoir à truites provincial du lac Caddy poursuit un programme d'empoisonnement des lacs et rivières en vue d'obtenir des truites grise, wendigo, arc-en-ciel, kokanee et omble de fontaine de taille exceptionnelle. Les plus importantes espèces d'eaux chaudes sont le doré jaune, le grande brochet et l'achigan petite bouche qu'on trouve, par exemple dans les lacs Falcon, Caddy, Brereton et des Bois.

L'original et le cerf de Virginie vivent sur les crêtes sablonneuses et dans la région du Bouclier précamalien. Dans les tourbières, les Onagres ne trouvent pas les plantes alimentaires et le couvert nécessaires. Le castor, l'ours noir, les loups et le renard roux sont également communs.

Le sanctuaire pour les oies Alf Hole situé à Rennie reçoit les bernaches du Canada au cours de la période de nidification ou à l'époque des migrations. Alf Hole crée le sanctuaire en 1939; ce n'était au début qu'un étang pour les jeunes bernaches. Un barrage fut construit sur la rivière Rennie en 1940 pour alimenter l'étang. Ces étangs sont aujourd'hui une station de nidification et une étape migratoire pour les bernaches du Canada qui sont nées de ce contingent original et des autres groupes qui lui ont succédé. La sauvagine construit également des nids sur d'autres lacs du territoire, au cours des migrations d'automne, on la trouve aussi sur les cours d'eau où croît la zizanie.

PEUPLEMENT ET MISE EN VALEUR DE LA TERRE

En 1668, la route de Dawson, partiellement ouverte, reliait le lac des Bois à Ste-Anne et Winnipeg; Pierre La Verendrye construisit le fort St-Charles à l'extrémité nord-ouest du lac en 1732. En 1733, il entreprit un voyage vers l'ouest jusqu'à la rivière Rouge en empruntant les rivières Reed, Mud et Roseau. Plusieurs mines d'or étaient en opération à la fin du 19^e siècle et les activités minières ont contribué à l'ouverture de la forêt provinciale Whiteshell. En 1914 les travaux de construction du chemin de fer du Greater Winnipeg Water Works District étaient terminés jusqu'à Shoal Lake. Au début du siècle, des immigrants obtinrent des concessions agricoles, occupant la majeure partie des terres sablonneuses qui convenaient le mieux à la croissance du pin gris. Après la crise économique, la plupart des terres avaient été rendues à la Couronne par suite du non-paiement des taxes.

Aujourd'hui, les terres cultivées occupent 7% de tout le territoire et sont en majorité consacrées à la production de céréales fourragères, d'avoine, de paturages améliorés; de petites surfaces sont ensermencées en lin et en blé. Environ 60% des terres sont à l'usage de l'industrie forestière.

POSSIBILITÉS RÉCRÉATIVES

Les aménagements convenant à des formes intensives de récréation de présentant des possibilités élevées n'existent que dans la partie du territoire appartenant au Bouclier précamalien. La réserve forestière et le parc provincial Whiteshell renferme des lacs où les aménagements sont nombreux, tels les lacs Falcon, West Hawk, Caddy, Brereton et Redrock. Ces lacs conviennent à la construction de chalets et ils sont populaires pour le camping, la pêche sportive et les promenades en bateau. Les lacs Nora, Marion, Hello, Indian, Cabin, Sailing et Mallard ont un potentiel semblable mais ils ne sont pas aménagés actuellement. L'extrémité occidentale du lac Falcon est la partie du parc provincial qui a été le plus intensément aménagée, on y trouve un village, une plage publique, des courts de tennis, un terrain de golf et un terrain de campisme provincial sur les bords des lacs West Hawk, Caddy, Star et Brereton. Il y a des possibilités modérément élevées pour la construction de chalets dans les régions en pente douce recouverte de till où affleure la roche en place; les possibilités sont plus faibles lorsque les assises rocheuses sont en pente raide.

Il est possible de faire du canotage sur plusieurs des lacs et des rivières du territoire. À l'époque de la traite des fourrures, on empruntait le réseau de la rivière Whiteshell, afin d'éviter la rivière Winnipeg. Le canotage se pratique également sur les rivières Whitemouth et Whiteshell.

Les lacs Whiteshell, Sprague, Birch, Moose, Moss et des Bois sont bordés de crêtes basses de gravier et d'argile que délimitent également les bassins lacustres. La turbidité, la faible profondeur, la chaleur des eaux et la présence de plantes sous l'eau ou à la surface, posent des problèmes à la navigation et sont responsables d'une diminution des populations de poissons dans ces lacs. Les rivières de la région de plateau traversent de vastes étendues marécageuses et, occasionnellement, des bandes de sable; elles présentent des possibilités fort limitées d'utilisation pour la récréation.

La région du Bouclier précamalien présente des possibilités modérées pour l'observation des phénomènes géologiques, de la flore et de la faune, des paysages naturels et